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or twice to ask the reader "unfamiliar with higher algebra" to accept mathematical formulas on faith. The topics to which most attention is given are the choice of units of measurement; the measurement of individuals, of groups, of differences, of changes, and of relationships; and the reliability of measurements and sources of error. Strong emphasis is laid upon tables of frequency. In statistical work involving the element of time this device is relatively less useful, and other methods of presentation not discussed by Professor Thorndike are more important. One good feature of the book is the scrupulous care taken to give all the data used in the illustrative examples, diagrams, and problems. The last chapter contains references for further study, and the appendix a multiplication table up to 100×100 , a table of square roots up to 1,000, and a collection of miscellaneous problems for additional practice. In reading the book two troublesome errors of the press were noticed. On p. 57, Figs. 52 and 53 are wrongly numbered, unless the reference on the next page is misprinted, and on p. 79 the reference to p. 79 ought to read p. 74.

WESLEY C. MITCHELL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

Library of Congress: A. L. A. Catalog. 8000 Volumes for a Popular Library, with Notes, 1904. Prepared by the New York State Library and the Library of Congress, under the auspices of the American Library Association Publishing Board. Editor: MELVIL DEWEY, Director New York State Library and Library School; Associate Editors: MAY SEYMOUR, Education Librarian, New York State Library; MRS. H. L. ELMENDORF, Special Bibliographer, Buffalo Public Library. Part I, "Classed;" Part II, "Dictionary." Washington: Government Printing Office, October, 1904.

The *A. L. A. Catalog* is perhaps the most important book of the year in point of real social influence. Appearing as it does with the stamp of approval of the American Library Association, awarded high honor at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and made doubly valuable through the co-operation of the Library of Congress, which not only prints and liberally distributes the work, but has prepared printed catalogue cards for the entire collection, this *Catalog* must of necessity be the guide of the majority of American libraries, both

in a large part of their book selection and in their method of cataloguing. It is certainly to be expected that the sociologist will recognize the immense influence this book must exercise indirectly on and through public opinion; for if the library be the organ of social memory, this *Catalog* will go far toward determining that part of social memory which shall abide above the threshold of social consciousness.

The A. L. A. Library is avowedly not for the specialist. For this reason any critical discussion of the scope, classification, arrangement, and utility of the *Catalog* for the specialist in sociology is out of place. And yet, if the book is to be used by the specialist, it may be well that he know what not to expect to find there.

As to the selection of titles, I shall make no criticism. The limitation of selection to strictly "in print" books explains many omissions, and while no one will be entirely satisfied with the list as it stands, yet it would be academic, if not doctrinaire, to stake one's personal judgment against the intimate knowledge of such a body of librarians as have been drawn on for this purpose. It may be allowable, however, to suggest that the plan of including short alternate lists for more advanced study, such as are given in the philosophy class, might well have been used more freely.

The *Catalog* consists of a class list, a public documents list, and a dictionary list, with the necessary accessories; address list of publishers, series abbreviations, authorities for notes, synopsis of the Dewey and Cutter classifications, and a subject index to the former.

The class list gives full entries, names of publishers, price, contents note, a short "appraisal" note, and a symbol indicating whether the book is popular, readable, scholarly, a reference work, or for young readers. The notes are of great value for conciseness, definite description, and fair judgment.

Under "Sociology" are listed 604 volumes, or 8 per cent. of the total number. This includes, however, all the social sciences, and excludes public documents, and works on social psychology (classed in 15), social ethics (in 17), sociology of religion (in 26 *et al.*), genetic sociology (in 571 and 901), social geography and description (in 91), social history (9), and biography (923). These omissions may indicate to some extent the inadequacy of the classification, as it stands, for the sociologist. It certainly fails to accomplish the supreme end of a classed list, i. e., a conspectus of the total field of any given science, logically arranged. The lack of close classifica-

tion will also be felt by the sociologist. A comparison with the method of the *Bibliographia Universalis Economica* makes this lack felt. There the re-entry of the title under all subjects of which it treats, and the very close classification, indicating the exact subject of the book, make the class list almost as particularized as an index.

These shortcomings are made good to some extent by the second (dictionary) part of the *Catalog*, which serves as a sort of index to the first part. Here the classification is closer, more comprehensive, and more diversified. There are analyticals, more subject headings, sub-entries, sub-classification under large headings such as countries, and title and series entry where important. Public documents are included in the classification. Yet even here one looks in vain for such familiar terms as "demography," "social statistics," "genetic sociology," "social history," "association," "comparative sociology," etc., on all of which there are books included.

Much of this criticism will doubtless apply only to the present edition of the book, and was caused by the haste in preparing it for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. It is so good and so vitally needed a piece of work that one cannot but covet for it that perfection which it approaches, but does not attain.

FRANK L. TOLMAN.

CHICAGO.

The Northern Tribes of Central Australia. By BALDWIN SPENCER AND F. J. GILLEN. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1904. Pp. xxxv + 784. \$6.50.

The Native Tribes of South East Australia. By A. W. HOWITT. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1904. Pp. xix + 819. \$6.50.

Spencer and Gillen's earlier work, *The Native Tribes of Central Australia*, was regarded by sociologists, on its appearance about four years ago, as throwing more light on the origins or society than any ethnological work which had appeared, perhaps, within a generation, and the appearance of works of similar importance in the same field and covering neighboring territory was hardly anticipated. But the same writers have now issued another volume of equal interest and scientific value, and Mr. Howitt, who has worked in southeast Australia for forty years, and who has already made numerous valuable contributions to our knowledge of the natives, has now brought together the results of his studies in a final form. And in one respect, at least—the treatment of the personality of the Aus-